SUPREME COURT, U. S.

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No. 74-1283

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM 1974

C.N.S. ENTERPRISES, INC., THOMAS G. COULES and CLAYTON NASSOS,

Petitioners,

vs.

G. & G. ENTERPRISES, INC., GISELLE STRAUSBURGER, GLADYS LUCAS, KIMLIS SALES COMPANY, ROBERT W. CASEY, and NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTIN,

Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

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Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Petitioners C.N.S. Enterprises, Inc., Thomas G. Coules and Clayton Nassos, plaintiffs-appellants in the court below, pray that a Writ of Certiorari issue to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit entered in this case.

Opinion Below

The opinion of the Seventh Circuit, reported at 508 F.2d 1354 (7th Cir. 1975), is set forth in Appendix 1. The District Court had issued no written opinion; the transcript of its oral ruling is attached as Appendix 2.

Jurisdiction

The opinion and judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit were entered on January 13, 1975 and became final on that date. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

Questions Presented

1. Does the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and Rule 10b-5 adopted thereunder, afford protection to the purchaser of the assets and good will of a business who pays for them partly with cash and partly with long-term personal and corporate notes?

2. Is the giving of a personal and corporate long-term promissory note in exchange for the assets of a business a purchase or sale of a security within the meaning of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934?

3. Do "commercial" notes fall outside the "any note" definition of a security in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934?

Statutes and Regulations Involved

The statutes and regulations involved herein are the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78(a) et seq.) and Rule 10b-5 of the General Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder by the Securities Exchange Commission (17 C.F.R. § 240-10b-5). The text of the pertinent provisions are reproduced as Appendix 4.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioners C.N.S. Enterprises, Inc., ("C.N.S.") Thomas G. Coules ("Coules") and Clayton Nassos ("Nassos") brought this action for rescission or damages charging that certain of the respondents violated Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated pursuant thereto. Jurisdiction in the District Court was predicated upon Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa).

Respondents G & G Enterprises, Inc. ("G & G"), Giselle Strausburger ("Strausburger") and Gladys Lucas ("Lucas") were the owners and operators of a coin-operated laundry and dry cleaning business in Justice, Illinois known as the Village Well. Respondents Kimlis Sales Company ("Kimlis") and Robert Casey ("Casey") had licensed the operation of the Village Well. The fixtures and equipment of the business had been pledged to secure a loan from respondent National Bank of Austin ("Austin") to G&G, Strausburger and Lucas.

In the latter part of 1971, G & G, Strausburger, Lucas, Kimlis and Casey set about finding a new owner and operator for the business and approached petitioners with a proposal that they purchase it. Negotiations continued over the next few months and were concluded on January 20, 1972 with the purchase by C.N.S. of the fixtures, merchandise, business and good will of the Village Well.

In exchange for the business, petitioners took over the sellers' existing indebtedness by issuing their own individual and corporate promissory note in the amount of $73,515.26 to Austin and assuming the existing chattel mortgage in that amount covering the fixtures and equipment. The balance of the purchase price was paid in cash

to G & G, Strausburger and Lucas, with $20,000 of that balance being the proceeds of an additional loan by Austin to petitioners secured by a junior chattel mortgage on the equipment and for which petitioners issued a second promissory note to the bank.

On September 29, 1972 petitioners filed this action. The gist of the Complaint (printed in its entirety as Appendix 3) is that during the negotiations leading to the sale, certain of the respondents made false representations and concealed material facts regarding the amount of monthly sales at the Village Well.

Each of the respondents filed a motion to dismiss attacking the District Court's subject matter jurisdiction. On May 2, 1973 the trial court denied the motions to dismiss and ordered that answers be filed; however, on September 26, 1973 the court reconsidered its prior decision, vacated the May 2d ruling and dismissed the complaint for lack of federal jurisdiction.

C.N.S., Coules and Nassos appealed from the order of dismissal. The Seventh Circuit panel hearing the case affirmed holding that the promissory notes issued in exchange for the assets were not securities within the meaning of the 1934 Act because they were "commercial notes" rather than "investment notes."

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

This is an important case of first impression. The Seventh Circuit has severely restricted the breadth of commercial conduct which would otherwise be covered by the plain meaning of the federal securities laws. Its decision on the question conflicts with that of other courts of appeals.

A.

This Court Has Recognized The Importance Of The Question Presented But To Date Has Not Passed Upon It

Just last term this Court acknowledged the importance of the question we seek to present but was not then asked to resolve it. In *Alberto-Culver Company* v. *Scherk,* 484 F.2d 611, 615 (7th Cir. 1973), reversed on other grounds 417 U.S. 506 (1974), the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit had held *inter alia* that the exchange of the assets of certain European business entities "for cash and promissory notes involves a 'security' within the meaning of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934." Certiorari was granted on another issue in the case; however, on the question of whether a security transaction was involved this Court stated (417 U.S. at 514-5, n. 8):

> "We do not reach, or imply any opinion as to, the question whether the acquisition of Scherk's businesses was a security transaction within the meaning of § 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5. Although *this important question* was considered by the District Court and the Court of Appeals, and although the dissenting opinion . . . seems to consider it controlling, the petitioner did not assign the adverse ruling on the question as error and it was not briefed or argued in this Court." (Emphasis added)

The four dissenting justices in *Scherk* also deemed the question of whether a "security" was involved to be important; they concluded that the promissory notes issued in return for assets were "securities" within the meaning of the 1934 Act. (417 U.S. at 522-3)

Given this Court's express recognition of the importance of the question of whether promissory notes issued in return for the assets of a business are "securities" within the meaning of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws, we urge that it be settled in the present case.

B.

The Decision Below Conflicts With The Plain Meaning Of The Statute Involved And With The Policy Adopted By This Court In Interpreting The Federal Securities Laws

Section 3(a)(10) of the 1934 Act (15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(1)) defines security as including "*any* note" provided it has a maturity exceeding nine months. The anti-fraud provisions of the Act come into play in the case of "the purchase or sale of *any* security." (15 U.S.C. § 78j) The language employed by Congress in these sections is plain, "unequivocal and all-embrasive." *Movielab, Inc.* v. *Berkey Photo, Inc.*, 31 F. Supp. 806, 808-9 (S.D.N.Y. 1970), affirmed 452 F.2d 662, 663 (2d Cir. 1971).

This Court has consistently ruled that the Securities Exchange Act, as remedial legislation, ought to be construed broadly and that the determination of what is a security should not be circumscribed by narrow or restrictive concepts. *Tcherepnin* v. *Knight*, 389 U.S. 332, 336-9 (1967). At the very least, it is clear that (389 U.S. at 339):

> " 'Instruments may be included within any of [the Act's] definitions, as a matter of law, if on their face they answer to the name or definition.' "

What the Court of Appeals has done in the instant case, however, restricts the Congressional definition of security and carves out of the protection of the 1934 Act instruments ostensibly covered by it. Substituted for the recognizable Congressional concept of "any note," is the Seventh Circuit's notion of "a case-by-case factual determination" (App. 18) to be made on the basis of a rather amorphous set of "possible criteria." (App. 16-17)

C.

There Is A Conflict In The Circuits

The question of whether the issuance of promissory notes in exchange for the assets of a business is a "security" transaction for purposes of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws has been answered in conflicting ways by the courts which have been called to rule on it.*

The Second Circuit says "yes." *Movielab, Inc.* v. *Berkey Photo, Inc.*, 452 F.2d 662, 663 (2d Cir. 1971) (see also the District Court opinion 321 F.Supp. 806 (S.D.N.Y. 1970), as does the District Court in *MacAndrews & Forbes Co. v. American Barmag Corp.*, 339 F. Supp. 1401, 1405-7 (D.S.C. 1972), and as did the Seventh Circuit panel which decided the *Scherk* case.

The Third Circuit apparently says "no." *Lino* v. *City Investing Co.*, 487 F.2d 689, 694-5 (3d Cir. 1973).

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*There is even a conflict between panels within the Seventh Circuit itself. Compare the opinion in the instant case with that of the Court in *Alberto-Culver Company* v. *Scherk*, 484 F.2d 611, 615 (7th Cir. 1973), reversed on other grounds, 417 U.S. 506 (1974).

The Fifth Circuit, although not deciding a directly analogous case, would apparently agree with the Court of Appeals in the present case and carve commercial paper out of the coverage of the 1934 Act. See: *Bellah* v. *First National Bank*, 495 F.2d 1109 (5th Cir. 1974); *McClure* v. *First National Bank*, 497 F.2d 490 (5th Cir. 1974) *cert. denied* ..... U.S. .....; and *SEC* v. *Continental Commodities Corp.*, 497 F.2d 516 (5th Cir. 1974).

We submit that these conflicting views on so important a federal statute compel prompt resolution by this Court.

D.

The Seventh Circuit's Decision, If Left Standing, Will Have Wide-Ranging Detrimental Effects On The Uniform Application Of Federal Securities Laws

There is virtue in applying the broadly interpreted concept of "security" urged by the petitioners rather than the more restrictive case-by-case test of whether a note is "commercial" or is "investment" which has now been adopted by the Seventh Circuit. A person who deals with promissory notes, whether as giver or acquirer, will know that he must meet the standards of candor and forthrightness prescribed by the federal securities laws. And the courts that are to apply those laws will have a certain standard against which to apply them.

On the other hand, the unstructured test espoused by the Court of Appeals in the present case can lead to nothing but confusion for the courts which are obliged to apply it and could well serve as a haven for the malevolent who will seek to surround their instruments with the trappings of "commercialness." We submit that only mischief and uncertainty will result should the Seventh Circuit opinion be left standing.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, petitioners respectfully pray that this Court grant a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the Seventh Circuit in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Russell J. Hoover, attorney for Petitioners herein hereby certify that on the 11th day of April, 1975, I served the foregoing Petition For Writ of Certiorari on Respondents by mailing 3 copies thereof in duly addressed envelopes with first class postage prepaid, addressed to their respective attorneys of record as follows:

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RUSSELL J. HOOVER

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1

In the

United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit

No. 73-2073

C.N.S. Enterprises, Inc., Thomas G. Coules and Clayton Nassos,

Plaintiffs-Appellants,

v.

G. & G. Enterprises, Inc., Giselle Strausburger, Gladys Lucas, Kimlis Sales Company, Robert W. Casey, and National Bank of Austin,

Defendants-Appellees.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
No. 72 C 2433
James B. Parsons, Judge.

Argued November 12, 1974 — Decided January 13, 1975

Before Castle, *Senior Circuit Judge,* Stevens and Sprecher, *Circuit Judges.*

Sprecher, *Circuit Judge.* The sole issue presented is whether promissory notes delivered to a bank for loans used to purchase the assets of a small business enterprise constitute "securities" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, investing the maker of the notes with a jurisdictional basis for bringing suit in the federal courts.

I

According to the complaint, the "Village Well" is a coin-operated laundry and dry cleaning business located in Justice, Illinois, which had been owned and operated by defendants Giselle Strausburger, Gladys Lucas and G. & G. Enterprises, Inc., in accordance with a license agreement from defendants Robert W. Casey and Kimlis Sales Company.

On January 20, 1972, the plaintiffs purchased the fixtures, merchandise, business and good will of the Village Well from Strausburger, Lucas and G. & G., having given Kimlis a promissory note for $5,000 as an earnest money deposit. As part of the transaction, the plaintiffs also (1) assumed a chattel mortgage in the amount of $73,515.26 on the fixtures, which mortgage was held by defendant National Bank of Austin, (2) gave the Austin Bank an "evidence of indebtedness" in like amount, (3) borrowed an additional $20,000 from the Austin Bank evidenced by a note secured by a junior chattel mortgage, and (4) paid a portion of the non-specified purchase price to Strausburger, Lucas and G. & G.

Plaintiffs alleged that from September through December 1971, defendants Strausburger, Lucas and Casey represented orally and in writing that the monthly sales of the Village Well ranged from $4,500 to $5,000, that October 1971 sales were about $4,800, that November 1971 sales were $5,700, that December 1971 sales would exceed those of November, and that defendants displayed to plaintiffs books and records purporting to reflect such sales. Plaintiffs further alleged that these representations were all false and that the books and records failed to reveal accurately the actual sales.

The plaintiffs operated the business for approximately four months, spending substantial sums in promoting the business, suffering financial losses and borrowing addi-

tional capital funds to carry on. On May 19, 1972, plaintiffs sent defendants a notice of rescission. Since May 28, the Village Well has been operated by Casey and Kimlis.

Plaintiffs sought rescission of all agreements with defendants, repayment of consideration paid and cancellation of obligations assumed. Plaintiffs relied exclusively for federal jurisdiction upon section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78j) and Rule 10b-5 thereunder (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).

All six defendants filed motions to dismiss on the ground that the 1934 Act does not apply to this transaction and therefore that federal jurisdiction does not lie.

The district court denied all motions on May 2, 1973, but, on motions for reconsideration, vacated that order. On September 26, 1973, the motions by all defendants to dismiss were granted "for reasons stated in the record." The record discloses that the court concluded that a "commercial" note, particularly one not subjected to further trading, as distinguished from an "investment" note, is not a security within the 1934 Act.

II

As we pointed out in *Sanders* v. *John Nuveen & Co., Inc.*, 463 F.2d 1075, 1078 (7th Cir), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 1009 (1972), the six basic federal securities acts each includes "any note" within its definition of "security."[1]

---

[1] Securities Act of 1933, § 2(1), 15 U.S.C. § 77b(1); Securities Exchange Act of 1934, § 3(a)(10), 15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(10); Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, §2a()(16), 15 U.S.C. §79b(a)(16); Trust Indenture Act of 1939, § 303(1), 15 U.S.C. § 77ccc(1); Investment Company Act of 1940, §2(a)(36), 15 U.S.C. § 80a-2(a)(36); and Investment Advisors Act of 1940, § 202(a)(18), 15 U.S.C. § 80b-2(a)(18).

However the 1933 Act exempts from registration, but not from the antifraud provisions of that act, any note "which arises out of a current transaction or the proceeds of which have been or are to be used for current transactions, and which has a maturity . . . not exceeding nine months."[2] The 1934 Act excludes from the definition of a "security," "any note . . . which has a maturity at the time of issuance of not exceeding nine months, exclusive of days of grace, or any renewal thereof the maturity of which is likewise limited."[3]

In *Sanders,* we held that promissory notes with a maturity not exceeding nine months but offered to the public as an investment are "securities" within the meaning of the 1934 Act despite the broad implications of the exception inasmuch as Congress obviously intended to protect such investors against fraud. 463 F.2d at 1079-80. We said:

> In other words, when Congress spoke of notes with a maturity not exceeding nine months, it meant commercial paper, not investment securities. When a prospective borrower approaches a bank for a loan and gives his note in consideration for it, the bank has purchased commercial paper. But a person who seeks to invest his money and receives a note in return for it has not purchased commercial paper in the usual sense. He has purchased a security investment.

Id. at 1080.

---

[2] Section 3(a)(3), 15 U.S.C. §77c(a)(3). For a discussion of the "current transactions" concept, see Comment, *The Commercial Paper Market and the Securities Act,* 39 U. CHI. L. REV. 362, 387-89 (1972). Moreover, the words "current transactions" twice used by Congress in the exemption emphasize the immediate need for funds by a borrower as opposed to long-term employment of funds by an investor.

[3] Section 3(a)(10), 15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(10).

In effect, we are now called upon to consider a situation which is the reverse of *Sanders*. In *Sanders* we applied a congressional-intent-revealed-in-context approach as against a literal-text-reading of "any note [with] a maturity . . . of not exceeding nine months" as those words are used in the exemption portion of the security definition of the 1934 Act, in order to avoid the exemption in the case where the short-term notes were offered to the investing public intended by Congress to be protected. Here we are asked to give the same context-over-text consideration to "any note" as those words are used in the security definition itself of the 1934 Act, in order to avoid federal jurisdiction of transactions claimed to fall beyond the protection intended by Congress in the enactment of the securities laws.

Analysis immediately reveals, however, much more serious differences between the two situations than the superficial analogy might lead one to believe. In *Sanders,* the effect of the contextual interpretation led to the non-application of an exemption and therefore to the inclusion of a kind of instrument within the protection of the 1934 Act. The effect of applying the same interpretation to the definition itself would lead to the exclusion of a type of instrument from the protection of the 1934 Act. When the Supreme Court has spoken of construing federal securities legislation "not technically and restrictively, but flexibly to effectuate its remedial purposes,"[4] it has been speaking of expanding the reach of protection, not diminishing it; of increasing the types of covered documents and transactions, not of decreasing them; of avoiding more frauds, not less.

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[4] *SEC* v. *Capital Gains Research Bureau, Inc.*, 375 U.S. 180, 195 (1963).

The inherent difficulty in purporting to find that Congress intended to limit the reach of federal jurisdiction exercised through securities legislation when it used the words "any note" is therefore compounded by the fact that the Supreme Court was in the process of expanding that jurisdiction when it searched for and expounded the congressional intent behind the securities acts. Under these circumstances it is understandable that courts have been struggling to answer the question here: are the securities acts invoked every time a person borrows money from a bank and gives his promissory note in return?

III

In *SEC* v. *C.M. Joiner Leasing Corp.*, 320 U.S. 344, 350-51 (1943), the Supreme Court, after noting that the defendants had invoked the *ejusdem generis* rule and the *expressio unius est exclusio alterius* maxim in interpreting the definition of a security under the 1933 Act, said:

> However well these rules may serve at times to aid in deciphering legislative intent, they long have been subordinated to the doctrine that courts will construe the details of an act in conformity with its dominating general purpose, will read text in the light of context and will interpret text so far as the meaning of the words fairly permits so as to carry out in particular cases the generally expressed legislative policy.

Id.

In *SEC* v. *National Securities, Inc.*, 393 U.S. 453 (1969), the Court, citing *Joiner*, said:

> The meaning of particular phrases must be determined in context. . . . Congress itself has cautioned that the same words may take on a different coloration in different sections of the securities laws; both the 1933 and 1934 Acts preface their lists of general

> definitions with the phrase "unless the context otherwise requires." 1933 Act, § 2, 48 Stat. 74, 15 U.S.C. § 77b; 1934 Act, § 3, 48 Stat. 882, 15 U.S.C. § 78c.

Id. at 466.

"Finally, we are reminded that, in searching for the meaning and scope of the word 'security' in the Act, form should be disregarded for substance and the emphasis should be on economic reality. *S.E.C.* v. *W. J. Howey Co.*, 328 U.S. 293, 298 (1946)." *Tcherepnin* v. *Knight*, 389 U.S. 332, 336 (1967). See also, *Milnarik* v. *M-S Commodities, Inc.*, 457 F.2d 274, 275-76 (7th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 887 (1972).

Accordingly, we commence our analysis with the language of the statutes.[5] In the 1933 Act, the opening words of section 2 read (15 U.S.C. § 77b):

> Sec. 2. When used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires—
>
> (1) the term "security" means any note . . . .

The only difference in the 1934 Act is the immaterial one that nine other definitions intercede between the contextual proviso and the security definition (15 U.S.C. § 78c):

> Section 3. (a) When used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires—
>
> • • •
>
> (10) The term "security" means any note . . . .

---

[5] In interpreting the definition of a security in the 1934 Act, the Supreme Court has sanctioned recourse to the 1933 Act. *Tcherepnin* v. *Knight*, 389 U.S. 332, 335-36, 338 (1967).

Inasmuch as Congress specified the context-over-text approach in both acts,[6] the next step is to discover what "context" applies in the circumstances of this case.

In *Eason* v. *General Motors Acceptance Corp.*, 490 F.2d 654 (7th Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 416 U.S. 960 (1974), this court rejected the purchaser-seller "standing" rule of the *Birnbaum* case[7] in favor of an identification of persons to whom the 1934 Act, and particularly section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5, extended protection as members of the class for whose special benefit the statute was enacted. In *Eason*, Judge Stevens said:

> Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Commission have all used the term "investors" to describe the class of persons protected by Rule 10b-5.
>
> * * *

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[6] The American Law Institute's tentative draft of the Federal Securities Code (Professor Louis Loss, Reporter), retains the "context" language, stating that "[t]he definitions . . . apply for purposes of this Code and the rules thereunder unless the context requires otherwise." ALI FED. SECURITIES CODE § 201(a) (Tent. Draft No. 1, April, 1972). The Comment to this section notes that "[i]t seems advisable not to risk an inference of intended rigidity from deletion of this caveat, however redundant it may be under the modern approach to statutory construction." The Comment continues:

> A good example of the text-context clash, still unresolved, is the question whether the discounting of an ordinary promissory note by either the maker or the payee is a "sale" of a "security" to the bank . . . .
>
> . . . [T]his problem does not lend itself to precise statutory solution. Too much depends on highly variegated circumstances.

[7] *Birnbaum* v. *Newport Steel Corp.*, 193 F.2d 461 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 343 U.S. 956 (1952).

> The emphasis on the injured party's status as an investor indicates that the protection of the rule extends to persons who, in their capacity as investors, suffer significant injury as a direct consequence of fraud in connection with a securities transaction, even though their participation in the transaction did not involve either the purchase or the sale of a security.

Id. at 659.

Judge Stevens pointed out the language of section 10(b) itself:[8]

> It shall be unlawful for any person . . . [t]o use or employ, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security registered on a national securities exchange or any security not so registered, any manipulative or deceptive device or contrivance in contravention of such rules and regulations as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or *for the protection of investors.*

15 U.S.C. § 78j (emphasis added).

He concluded:

> [I]n each case the plaintiff will have to demonstrate membership in the "special class" protected by Rule 10b-5 and injury as a direct consequence of the alleged violation.

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[8] He also looked to language of Mr. Justice Douglas in his opinion in *Superintendent of Insurance* v. *Bankers Life & Casualty Co.*, 404 U.S. 6, 10, 12-13 (1971), where reference was twice made to the Rule 10b-5 protection against injury "as an investor." It should also be noted that the Senate Report accompanying what became the 1933 Act stated that "[t]he purpose of this bill is to protect the investing public and honest business." S. REP. No. 47, 73d Cong., 1st Sess. 1 (1933). The Senate Report accompanying what became the 1934 Act stated that section 10(b) "authorizes the Commission . . . to prohibit or regulate . . . practices which it finds detrimental to the interests of the investor." S. REP. No. 792, 73d Cong., 2d Sess. 18 (1934).

490 F.2d at 660.

The *Eason* test is applicable here in defining a security. In *SEC* v. *C.M. Joiner Leasing Corp.*, 320 U.S. 344 (1943), the Supreme Court noted that:

> In the Securities Act the term "security" was defined to include by name or description many *documents in which there is common trading for speculation or investment* . . . such as notes . . . .

Id. at 351 (emphasis added).

The Supreme Court particularly considered the definition of "security" in the 1934 Act in *Tcherepnin* v. *Knight*, 389 U.S. 332 (1967):

> One of [the] central purposes [of the 1934 Act] is *to protect investors* through the requirement of full disclosure by issuers of securities, and the definition of security in § 3(a)(10) necessarily *determines the classes of investments and investors which will receive the Act's protections.*

Id. at 336 (emphasis added).

The ultimate question is whether the plaintiffs are simply borrowers in a commercial transaction who are not protected by the 1934 Act or investors in a securities transaction who are protected.[9]

IV

In one sense every lender of money is an investor since he places his money at risk in anticipation of a profit in the form of interest. Also in a broad sense every investor lends his money to a borrower who uses it for a price and is expected to return it one day.

---

[9] Material misrepresentations were sufficiently pleaded and the applicability of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 depends entirely upon the definition of "security."

On the other hand, the polarized extremes are conceptually identifiable: buying shares of the common stock of a publicly-held corporation, where the impetus for the transaction comes from the person with the money, is an investment; borrowing money from a bank to finance the purchase of an automobile, where the impetus for the transaction comes from the person who needs the money, is a loan. In between is a gray area which, in the absence of further congressional indication of intent or Supreme Court construction, has been and must be in the future subjected to case-by-case treatment.

The Second Circuit held in *Movielab, Inc.* v. *Berkey Photo, Inc.*, 452 F.2d 662 (2d Cir. 1971), that "notes issued by one publicly owned company to another publicly owned company for $10,500,000, payable over a period of 20 years, in exchange for the assets of the latter easily fall within the purview of the [1934] Act . . . ."[10]

After our decision in *Sanders, supra,* where we held that notes with a maturity not exceeding nine months but offered to the public as an investment were securities under the 1934 Act,[11] the Second Circuit in *Zeller* v. *Bogue*

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[10] The court refused to deal with the "hypothetical situation" of whether "the issuance of notes in every private loan transaction" comes within the scope of the 1934 Act." 452 F.2d at 663.

[11] $1,661,500 in notes were offered to and purchased by 42 investors. In addition, we relied upon Securities and Exchange Commission's Release No. 33-4412:

> The legislative history of the [1933] Act makes clear that section 3(a)(3) applies only to prime quality negotiable *commercial paper of a type not ordinarily purchased by the general public,* that is, paper used to facilitate well recognized types of current operational business requirements and of a type eligible for discounting by Federal Reserve banks.

26 Fed. Reg. 9159 (1961) (emphasis added).

Electric Manufacturing Corp., 476 F.2d 795 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 414 U.S. 908 (1973), agreed with *Sanders* that "the mere fact that a note has a maturity of less than nine months does not take . . . [it] out of Rule 10b-5, unless . . . [it] fits the general notion of 'commercial paper' . . . ." *Id.* at 800. In holding that a note issued by a parent corporation to its subsidiary for loans by the subsidiary in the amount of $315,310 to assist the parent's operating losses and deteriorating working capital position, was a security, Judge Friendly said:

> It does not follow, however, that every transaction . . . which involves promissory notes, whether of less or more than nine months maturity, is within Rule 10b-5. The Act is *for the protection of investors*, and its provisions must be read accordingly . . . .
>
> [W]e see no reason to doubt that Belco [subsidiary] stood in the position of an investor, although perhaps an involuntary one, with respect to Bouge [parent].

Id. (emphasis added).

The Third Circuit held in *Lino* v. *City Investing Co.*, 487 F.2d 689 (3d Cir. 1973), that there was no federal jurisdiction over material misstatements made in connection with Lino's purchase from the franchiser of two franchise licensing agreements, partially with cash and partially with several promissory notes. Judge Hunter said:

> These were personal promissory notes issued by a private party. There was no public offering of the notes, and the issuer was the person claiming to be defrauded. The notes were not procured for speculation or investment, and there is no indication that [the franchiser] was soliciting venture capital from Lino.
>
> • • •

> [The franchiser] was selling a certain contract right to Lino, not buying his security. It simply lacks common sense to describe the transaction as [the franchiser] purchasing . . . Lino's security by paying him the right to operate one of its Franchise Sales Centers.

Id. at 694-95.

The Fifth Circuit considered what it has called "the commercial-investment dichotomy" in four recent cases. In *United States* v. *Rachal,* 473 F.2d 1338, 1342-43 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied,* 412 U.S. 927 (1973), a criminal case under the 1933 Act, the court approved an instruction given by the trial court which provided that the exemption of short-term notes from the registration provisions of the 1933 Act applied only to commercial not investment paper (that is, the *Sanders* rationale).

In *Bellah* v. *First National Bank,* 495 F.2d 1109 (5th Cir. 1974), the court held that a promissory note of six-months maturity, secured by a deed of trust on real property, issued for a bank loan needed by the makers (husband and wife) to aid them in the development of their livestock business, was commercial paper and not investment paper and hence the note and deed were not securities.[12]

In *McClure* v. *First National Bank,* 497 F.2d 490 (5th Cir. 1974), a one-year promissory note and a deed of

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[12] Judge Gewin articulated two possible effects of *not* applying the commercial-investment dichotomy, which he saw as indicia of congressional intent that it be applied: (1) subjection of ordinary commercial loan transactions to the registration requirements of the 1933 Act "would inevitably wreak havoc on the commercial paper market" and (2) complaints spawned by a commercial loan transaction should find recourse in state not federal courts. 495 F.2d at 1114.

trust issued for a bank loan alleged to be needed to pay the corporate obligations of a closely-held corporation, were held not to be securities. Judge Roney analyzed prior federal decisions and concluded:

> The cases excluding certain notes from the coverage of the Act generally involved underlying transactions between payor and payee which were not of an investment nature.
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> • • •
>
> On the other hand, where notes have been deemed securities within the meaning of the securities laws, either of two factors, not present here, usually indicated the investment overtones of the underlying transactions. [The notes were either] offered to some class of investors, [or] were . . . acquired . . . for speculation or investment . . . [or the borrower obtained] investment assets, directly or indirectly, in exchange for its notes.[13]

Id. at 493-94.

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[13] Judge Roney also said:

> We realize that our holding today that the Act does not apply to commercial notes of a longer duration than nine months, taken with the decisions voiding the short-term exemption as to investment paper, virtually writes that exemption out of the law. On one hand, the Act covers all *investment* notes, no matter how short their maturity, because they are not encompassed by the "any note" language of the exemption. On the other hand, the Act does not cover any *commercial* notes, no matter how long their maturity, because they fall outside the "any note" definition of a security. Thus, the investment or commercial nature of a note entirely controls the applicability of the Act, depriving of all utility the exemption based on maturity-length. The original scrivener of the definitional section may well wonder what happened to his carefully drawn exemption on the way to the courthouse, but if the judicial decisions do not properly reflect the intent of Congress as to the coverage of the Act, only that body can properly rectify the situation at this point, if stare decisis is to apply and the Supreme Court does not make some definitive decision contrary to the presently decided cases.

497 F.2d at 494-95.

Finally, the Fifth Circuit held in *SEC* v. *Continental Commodities Corp.*, 497 F.2d 516 (5th Cir. 1974), that promissory notes with a maturity date of less than nine months issued by a corporation in partial reimbursement to its customers who had held open accounts when the corporation's trading in commodities futures options was suspended by the California Commissioner of Corporations, were securities. Judge Gewin said:

> [I]t is the character of the note, not its maturity date, which determines coverage under both the registration provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
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> • • •
>
> The paramount concern in this inquiry is the nature of the transaction in which the note is issued.
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> • • •
>
> [T]he notes [here] were issued to rejuvenate and not to liquidate the enterprise.
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> • • •
>
> Once the resuscitative nature of the notes is established, the conclusion is ineluctable that the notes were investment and not commercial paper. Since revival would inure to their benefit, recipients accepted the notes with the hope of realizing a greater return on their investments.

The commercial-investment dichotomy delineated to some extent in the foregoing courts of appeals cases has been further demarcated in recent district court cases: *Avenue State Bank* v. *Tourtelot*, 379 F. Supp. 250 (N.D.

Ill. 1974) (series of short-term notes issued by travel agency for bank loan to pay off current debts held not to be securities); *Joseph* v. *Norman's Health Club, Inc.*, 336 F. Supp. 307 (E.D. Mo. 1971) (promissory notes given for lifetime membership in health clubs held not to be securities); *City National Bank* v. *Vanderboom*, 290 F. Supp. 592, 608 (W.D. Ark. 1968), *aff'd*, 422 F.2d 221 (8th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 399 U.S. 905 (1970) (notes given by corporate organizers for bank loans to purchase corporation's capital stock held not to be securities).

A comprehensive and perceptive student comment suggests a long list of possible criteria to distinguish ordinary commercial notes not protected by the act from investment notes or investment securities protected by the act: (1) how is the instrument characterized in the business community? (2) how are the proceeds to be used (if for consumer goods or particular business goods or services—not covered, but if for general financing of borrower's enterprise—covered)? (3) extent of reliance on efforts of others (placing funds at great risk, giving note payee extensive collateral rights, making repayment of funds contingent upon some event, all tend to indicate security rather than loan); (4) number of notes issued, number of payees, dollar amount of transaction; (5) payable on demand or if payable at fixed time, how long is the time between issuance and maturity? and (6) characterization of notes on relevant financial statements. Comment, *Commercial Notes and Definition of "Security" Under Securities Exchange Act of 1934: A Note Is a Note Is a Note?* 52 NEB. L. REV. 478, 510-24 (1973).

These criteria are helpful but each case appears to require its own decision based upon its own facts.[14]

The American Law Institute's tentative draft of the Federal Securities Code includes not only a definition of "security" but also sets forth certain items which are *not* included in the term "security" and hence are not subject to the registration, antifraud or other provisions. One of the exclusions is "a note or other evidence of indebtedness issued in a mercantile transaction." ALI FED. SECURITIES CODE § 297(b)(3) (Reporter's Revision of Text of Tent. Drafts Nos. 1-3, Oct. 1974). However the term "mercantile transaction" is not defined.

The tentative code would exempt from registration requirements "commercial paper with a denomination of at least $100,000." *Id.* § 301(l). "Commercial paper" is defined as

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[14] In *Lino* v. *City Investing Co.*, 487 F.2d 689 (3d Cir. 1973), the court noted:

> Neither party has been able to suggest a "test" to us that would aid in determining whether there has been a purchase or sale of securities when a personal promissory note is involved. Each assures us that wherever the line is, he is on the safe side of it. The cases cited previously suggest that transactions involving a corporation's notes should be treated differently in some instances than similar transactions involving an individual's notes.
>
> * * *
>
> But we do not have to rule on that distinction now. Nor are we determining that in other circumstances transactions involving personal notes do not constitute the purchase or sale of securities. The courts will have to consider the complete context of each transaction in making their determinations.

Id. at 696 n.15.

> (a) a note or banker's or trade acceptance that is payable on demand or matures or is renewed for not more than nine months, exclusive of days of grace, after the date of issue or renewal, or (b) any other instrument or interest of primarily a mercantile character that the Commission designates by rule.

Id. § 216A.

Again, there is no definition of "mercantile character." So we are left ultimately with the necessity for a case-by-case factual determination.[15]

V

Although we have gone into what we believe is the congressional and Supreme Court basis for the commercial-investment dichotomy at some length in the hope that prospective litigants in this circuit may be enlightened as to its possible parameters, the application of the rule is not difficult in this case.

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[15] The conclusion of the authors of one analysis (Lipton and Katz, *"Notes" Are (Are Not?) Always Securities—A Review*, 29 BUS. LAW. 861 (1974)) is:

> Not every note is a security. The commercial context of the underlying transaction has to be evaluated. Notes issued for personal loans and consumer installment purchases are not securities. Notes that are issued for investments and business acquisitions as well as commercial paper sold outside the normal institutional market are securities. The middle ground has been narrowed, but will still from time to time create a problem. The courts have seen the impact of the open "floodgates" in other areas and should pay heed to the legislative intent and policy considerations discussed above. The federal securities laws are not the appropriate vehicle for consumer protection on installment sales.

Id. at 866.

Three promissory notes were involved in the present transaction. The $20,000 note secured by a chattel mortgage was given to the National Bank of Austin as evidence of a loan. The $73,515.26 note was given to the Austin Bank upon the assumption by the makers of a pre-existing chattel mortgage on the fixtures of the coin-operated laundry and dry cleaning business which the makers purchased. The complaint did not have attached thereto a copy of either note, which would have seemed a prudent procedure inasmuch as jurisdiction is dependent upon them, but in any event nothing alleged in the complaint indicated that these two notes represent anything beyond the borrowing of money to make partial payment upon the purchase of the assets of a business.

Nothing alleged in the complaint indicated in any way that the bank was an investor in the business or a co-partner in the enterprise. The impetus for the transaction appears to have come from the borrowers who needed cash to complete the purchase. There is no allegation that the bank solicited the plaintiffs to interest them in an investment. The business enterprise involved was to be operated by the plaintiffs, not by the bank or by the defendants as an investment for the plaintiffs.[16] The complaint was silent as to any of the factors which conceivably might tend to transform an ordinary commercial loan into an investment security.

The third note for $5,000 was an earnest money deposit subsequently redeemed. This note served for a time as a

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[16] Paragraph 18 of the complaint alleged: "Plaintiffs began operating the Village Well on or about January 18, 1972 and continued to operate said business for approximately four months."

cash substitute. Since the security definition of the 1934 Act "shall not include currency,"[17] this document does not confer jurisdiction.

Inasmuch as no securities were involved, this transaction is not subject to the 1934 Act or Rule 10b-5 and the district court correctly concluded that it lacked jurisdiction of the subject matter.

AFFIRMED.

A true Copy:
Teste:

.....
Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

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[17] 15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(10).

APPENDIX 2

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

C.N.S. ENTERPRISES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

G & G ENTERPRISES, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

No. 72 C 2433

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
before
HON. JAMES B. PARSONS
Judge
September 26, 1973
3:45 o'clock, p.m.

The Court: Well, gentlemen, I have reviewed my own decision in this matter which was rendered on May 2nd, 1973 recently in the light of research which was required of me in other cases, and out of the clear sky and without even having had the benefit of these arguments this afternoon, concluded that I must have been in error because of the case restriction placed upon instruments which are the subject matter of litigation under the Securities Exchange Act both of 1933 and the one of 1934, that seek to cause the parties and the litigation to comply with the intent of Congress at the time of the enactment of the statutes.

The statutes were enacted for the purpose of controlling and regulating the dealing in securities as such dealing is commonly referred to as the engaging in purchase and sale of stock by the public, for the purpose of making money out of the purchase and the sale of the stock or the purchase and sale of the security, and not for the purpose of making money out of the security itself.

There is a very narrow difference in what I have said between the two types of purposes. That was brought to my attention by the necessity of having to distinguish among those securities which are regulated by the SEC in which some are called commercial and some are called investment securities. There is a difference even within those securities which are regulated by SEC between commercial paper and investment paper.

In those securities so regulated, commercial paper is that which is bought and discounted on sale for the purpose of sale and making of the money out of the dealing in the paper on short-term; where that that is bought for investment purposes is bought for the purpose of holding it for a substantial period of time.

I was thrown off when re-reading Sanders, which is the Seventh Circuit's last pronouncement, by the utilization of its very fine judge of the Seventh Circuit, Judge Sprecher, who is good in this field, of the language of commercial paper as against investment paper. He says when Congress spoke of notes with a maturity not exceeding nine months it meant commercial paper, not investment securities, and he said that, "When a person who seeks to invest his money and receives a note in return for it, he has not purchased commercial paper in the usual sense, he has purchased a security investment."

Now, this is a utilization of the term which is different from that with relation to the situation which we find here but, nevertheless, he does reflect in his footnotes the excellent analysis of the acts and of the limitations of the applications of the acts found in Professor Loss' works on securities exchange, Professor Loss of Harvard University, where he says, and tries to insist, that neither of the acts intended to include the short-term type of notes that are of the kind which were specifically exempt by the regulations under the Securities Act, Section 3(a)(3).

I am convinced that beginning with that paragraph in my opinion of May 2nd wherein I said, "However, although defendants' contention is well-stated, I find that the promissory notes involved in this case constituted securities within the meaning of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934—" et cetera, and quoted from the provision of Section 78(c)(10) of that act, which was that any note—"security" meant "any note, stock, treasury stock, bonds, debenture, certificate of interest or participation in any profit sharing agreement, or any oil, gas or other mineral royalty or lease, any collateral trust certificate, any reorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting trust certificate, certificate of deposit for a security, or in general any instrument commonly known as a security."

It is true that Congress sought to broaden it to the extent that it might include any type of investment where the welfare of the public might be injured by transactions by persons having inside knowledge while the public is engaged in the buying and selling for its own profit of securities, I am now of the opinion, and very definitely of the opinion, that even the Skylab case does not ask that I go that far as to include in a security to be covered by the Securities Exchange Act the ordinary day-to-day

note, promissory note, given in return for the lending of money, where neither the giver nor the lender has any interest in commercial or investment paper in which there is a public interest because the institution or the paper itself is addressed to public interests.

I am convinced that a promissory note given by an ordinary borrower, such as you or I, to an ordinary lender such as these defendants or such as the Austin Bank, in the ordinary case such as this where the borrower says, "I would like to have you finance, Mr. Bank, me in the purchase of an automobile or finance me in the purchase of a washing automat" or "finance me in the purchase of a grocery store" or "finance me in the purchase of a home"—does not constitute a security in the sense that the lender would be an investor in the public domain in the enterprise of a borrower who himself seeks investment in the public domain.

The investor, whether or not he or it has any control over the enterprise, joins the enterprise in one sense or another and contemplates that the earnings from his investment will reflect the fortunes of the enterprise.

The lender never considers himself nor the equity he retains in the money that is lent a part of the enterprise of the borrower; he merely looks to the collateral, if there be collateral, or, if there be none, to the integrity of the borrower, not the enterprise for assurance that his loan will return to him and that interest will be paid to him.

It is, as counsel for Kimless and Casey has indicated, the difference between the borrower and lender where the borrower seeks by his borrowing merely the obtaining of money and the lender from his lending merely the interest to be gained from the lending, and where neither is

engaged in the business of making money out of borrowing or lending or the sale of the things that were borrowed or lent.

It is, indeed, as he indicated, the difference between the borrowing here from Austin Bank by these two women, for which they gave a promissory note, and the selling by a lending institution at discount of hundreds or thousands of the notes that it receives in return for loans that it makes.

We do have such institutions such as Commercial Credit Corporation, which engages in lending on small-scale amounts from fifty to five hundred or—now I think it is up to two thousand dollars—and those notes it then sells at discount to larger institutions and, if they be long-term notes, the larger institutions must determine whether or not they will buy them at discount or take them on face value and keep them for the interest, or buy them at lesser discounts and keep them for longer periods of time.

In those transactions they are indeed engaged with the buying and selling of securities even though they are buying and selling promissory notes, and I feel very sure that those would come within the control of the Securities Exchange Act.

But if, on the other hand, I were to go and continue as I did on May 2nd in this, I believe properly I would be reversed for properly I would be wrong, and, further, I would believe that it was not the intent of Congress that each of the five of us be himself constantly under the surveillance of the Securities Exchange Commissior as day-to-day we walk in and out of our bank and give a note, either secured or not secured, other than by our signature, in return for the lend of money, which note sometimes we renew every 90 days, but which notes do not constitute

an investment of the lender in our businesses, our enterprises, our affairs, as indeed I think the situation is in the case before me.

For these reasons, for the reasons set forth in the recitation here to the record of counsel for the defendants today, I apologize for my having gone off base on May 2nd, I grant the motion to reconsider, I have reconsidered and, upon such reconsideration, I determine that the motions to dismiss of the defendants should be allowed, and it is so ordered, adjudged and decreed.

CERTIFICATE

I Hereby Certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause before the Hon. James B. Parsons, one of the Judges of said Court, on September 26, 1973, and that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of a portion of my original shorthand notes so made as aforesaid.

/s/ *Joseph R. Betz*
Joseph R. Betz, Official Court Reporter
United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois
Eastern Division

APPENDIX 3

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

C.N.S. ENTERPRISES INC., THOMAS G. COULES and CLAYTON NASSOS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

G. & G. ENTERPRISES INC., GISELLE STRAUSBURGER, GLADYS LUCAS, KIMLIS SALES COMPANY, ROBERT W. CASEY, and NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTIN,

Defendants.

No. 72 C 2433

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs C.N.S. Enterprises Inc., Thomas G. Coules and Clayton Nassos complain of defendants G. & G. Enterprises Inc., Giselle Strausburger, Gladys Lucas, Kimlis Sales Company, Robert W. Casey, and National Bank of Austin as follows:

1. This action is brought to redress violations by certain defendants of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. § 78j, and of Rule 10b-5 of the General Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder by the Securities and Exchange Commission, 17 C.F.R. § 240 10b-5. The jurisdiction of this Court is based upon Section 27 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa.

2. Plaintiff C.N.S. Enterprises Inc. (hereinafter "C. N.S.") is an Illinois corporation. Plaintiff Thomas G. Coules (hereinafter "Coules") is a resident of Illinois and is and at all times pertinent hereto has been an officer and director of C.N.S. Plaintiff Clayton Nassos (hereinafter "Nassos") is a resident of Illinois and is and at all times pertinent hereto has been an officer and director of C.N.S.

3. Defendant Kimlis Sales Company (hereinafter Kimlis) is an Illinois corporation with its principal place of business in Chicago, Illinois.

4. Defendant Robert W. Casey (hereinafter "Casey") is and at all times pertinent hereto has been an officer and director of Kimlis.

5. Defendant G. & G. Enterprises Inc. (hereinafter "G. & G.") is an Illinois corporation with its principal place of business in Hinsdale, Illinois.

6. Defendant Giselle Strausburger (hereinafter "Strausburger") is and at all times pertinent hereto has been an owner, officer and director of G. & G.

7. Defendant Gladys Lucas (hereinafter "Lucas") is and at all times pertinent hereto has been an owner, officer and director of G. & G.

8. Defendant National Bank of Austin (hereinafter "Austin") is a national bank with its principal place of business in Chicago, Illinois. Austin is joined as a defendant pursuant to Rule 19(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, because in its absence complete relief cannot be accorded among the remaining parties.

9. All of the transactions and the violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 hereinafter alleged occurred in this district.

10. Commencing at some time prior to November, 1971, defendants G. & G., Strausburger, Lucas, Kimlis and Casey instituted a program to find a purchaser and operator for the coin-operated laundry and dry cleaning business known as the Village Well of Justice (hereinafter "Village Well"), located at 8501 South Cork Avenue, Justice, Illinois. At said time the Village Well was owned and operated by defendants Strausburger, Lucas and G. & G. in accordance with a license agreement between and among said defendants and defendants Kimlis and Casey.

11. In September, 1971, defendant Casey contacted plaintiffs and informed them that the Village Well was for sale and that he thought its purchase would be a profitable investment for plaintiffs.

12. On or about January 20, 1972 plaintiff C.N.S. purchased from defendants G. & G., Strausburger and Lucas the fixtures, merchandise, business and good will of the Village Well.

13. In connection with the purchase and as a part of the purchase price plaintiffs were required to and did perform the following acts:

(a) Assumed a chattel mortgage in the amount of $73,515.26 on the fixtures being sold, which was held by defendant Austin and executed an evidence of indebtedness to defendant Austin in the amount of $73,515.26.

(b) Plaintiff C.N.S. transmitted to and subsequently redeemed from defendant Kimlis a promissory note in the amount of $5,000.00 (said promissory note constituted an earnest money deposit).

(c) Entered into a junior chattel mortgage with defendant Austin in the amount of $20,000.00 and executed an evidence of indebtedness to defendant Austin in like amount.

(d) Paid a portion of the purchase price to defendants Strausburger, Lucas and G. & G. in cash.

14. In connection with plaintiffs' purchase as aforesaid, the defendants (with the exception of defendant Austin) conspired with each other to violate, and each of them did violate Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C.A. § 78j, and clauses (1), (2) and (3) of Rule 10b-5 of the General Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder by the Securities and Exchange Commission, 1 C.F.R. § 240 10b-5, by employing a devise, scheme or artifice to defraud, by making untrue statements of material facts and omitting to state material facts necessary to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made not misleading, and by engaging in an act, practice or course of business which operated as a fraud or deceit upon plaintiffs. Such violations were effected by use of instrumentalities of interstate commerce.

15. Between September, 1971, and January 20, 1972 the following statements and representations of material facts were made to plaintiffs by certain defendants, acting on behalf of all of the defendants pursuant to their conspiracy:

(a) In September, 1971, defendant Casey orally represented that the Village Well had been doing approximately $4,500.00 in sales per month.

(b) At various times in October and November defendants Lucas and Strausburger orally represented that the Village Well transacted monthly sales of between $4,800.00 and $5,500.00 and that said sales had been progressively increasing.

(c) On or about November 29, 1971 defendants G. & G., Lucas and Strausburger represented in writing that in October, 1971, the Village Well had transacted approximately $4,800.00 in sales (plus or minus a variation of 5%).

(d) In December, 1971, defendants Strausburger, Lucas and Casey represented orally and in writing that sales at the Village Well in November, 1971 amounted to $5,700.00.

(e) In December, 1971, defendants Strausburger and Lucas orally represented that the sales at the Village Well for the month of December, 1971, were exceeding and would exceed those of November, 1971.

(f) At various times from October, 1971, to January, 1972, defendants Strausburger and Lucas displayed to plaintiffs books and records which purported to reflect sales at the Village Well.

16. In fact the statements and representations as to material facts set forth in paragraph 15 hereof were untrue, or defendants omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, in that:

(a) As of September, 1971, the Village Well was not realizing sales of $4,500.00 per month.

(b) The sales at the Village Well never amounted to as much as $4,800.00.

(c) The Village Well had not transacted within five percent (5%) of $4,800.00 in sales in the month of October, 1971. In the alternative defendants Strausburger and Lucas failed to inform plaintiffs that in computing the total sales for the Village Well in October, 1971 as $4,800.00 (plus or minus five percent), they included income due to the Village Well for dry cleaning work done by the Village Well from a Downers Grove laundromat operated by said defendants.

(d) The sales at the Village Well in November, 1971 were substantially less than $5,700.00.

(e) The sales at the Village Well in December, 1971 did not exceed those of November, 1971.

(f) The books and records displayed to plaintiffs failed to accurately reveal the sales at the Village Well.

17. Defendants knew or should have known the material facts set forth in paragraph 16 but they failed to state those material facts to plaintiffs.

18. Plaintiffs began operating the Village Well on or about January 18, 1972 and continued to operate said business for approximately four months.

19. During the period of time in which plaintiffs operated the Village Well, they spent substantial sums of money in promoting its business. Despite that fact, the monthly sales at the Village Well never approached the total monthly sales as previously represented by the defendants.

20. Because the total sales at the Village Well did not approach the totals previously represented by defendants, plaintiffs continued to suffer financial losses from the operation of the Village Well and were required to borrow additional capital funds from defendants Casey and Kimlis in order to offset the operating losses.

21. On or about May 19, 1972 plaintiffs sent a Notice of Rescission to defendants. (A copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.)

22. Continually since May 28, 1972 the Village Well has been operated by defendants Casey and Kimlis.

23. By reason of the wrongful conduct of defendants, plaintiffs have been damaged by loss of the use of the consideration paid to defendants Strausburger and Lucas for the Village Well, by being required to borrow sums of

money from and become personally indebted to defendant Austin, by being required to borrow additional sums of money and become indebted to defendants Casey and Kimlis, and by being required to bear significant financial losses in the operation of the Village Well.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray the Court to enter a judgment in their favor as follows:

(a) Rescinding plaintiffs' purchase of the Village Well and all other related agreements, contracts and obligations, requiring defendants G. & G., Strausburger and Lucas to pay plaintiffs all of the consideration which plaintiffs paid for the Village Well, cancelling all obligations assumed by plaintiffs as a result of said purchase, and requiring defendants G. & G., Strausburger and Lucas to reassume all of said obligations, including the lease on the premises, all agreements, lines of credit and other obligations with defendant Kimlis, and all notes and loans with defendant Austin.

(b) In the alternative adjudging defendants (with the exception of defendant Austin) jointly and severally liable to plaintiffs for the full amount of plaintiffs' damages.

(c) For their costs in this action.

(d) For such other and further relief as may be just.

.....

Edward H. Hatton
Russell J. Hoover
Jonathan T. Howe
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Jenner & Block
135 South LaSalle
Chicago, Illinois 60603
641-6060

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF RESCISSION

TO: G & G Enterprises, Inc.
108 East Ogden Avenue
Hinsdale, Illinois
Justice Village Market
2740 Maple Avenue

Downers Grove, Illinois
National Bank of Austin
5645 West Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois 60644

Kimlis Sales Company
5145 South Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Ms. Giselle Strausburger
Ms. Gladys Lucas
108 East Ogden Avenue
Hinsdale, Illinois

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that C.N.S. Enterprises, Inc., an Illinois corporation, and Thomas C. Coulis and Clayton Nassas ("Purchasers") do hereby tender notice of the rescission of the agreement entered into on November 29, 1971 with the G & G Enterprises, Ms. Strausburger and Ms. Lucas ("Sellers") and of the bulk sale of all fixtures, merchandise, business and good will of the operation known as the Village Well of Justice, located at 8501 South Court Avenue, Justice, Illinois, and all other related agreements, contracts, and obligations, retroactive to the 29th day of November, 1971, because of the material breach and fraudulent misrepresentation of Sellers in the inducement to Purchasers to enter into said agreement and purchase.

Furthermore, you are hereby tendered all of said fixtures, merchandise, business and good will and all obligations and other agreements which have come into effect since November 29, 1971, arising out of the operations of said business. Effective the close of business, May 28, 1972, Purchaser shall tender back the above described property, and disclaims all responsibility thereafter.

Demand is hereby made for the immediate return of all moneys paid to Sellers by Purchasers, and the cancellation of all obligations assumed by Purchasers and the reassumption of said obligations by Sellers, including but not limited to the lease on the premises, all agreements, lines of credit and other obligations with Kimlis Sales Company arising out of the aforementioned agreement, and all notes and loans with the National Bank of Austin and otherwise.

C.N.S. Enterprises, Inc.
Thomas C. Coulis
Clayton Nassas
By *Tom Coulis*

Dated: May 19, 1972.

APPENDIX 4

Statutes and Regulations Involved

Section 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78c) provides in pertinent part:

> "(a) When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires—
>
> * * *
>
> (10) The term 'security' means any note . . ."

Section 10 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78j) states in pertinent part:

> "It shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, by the use of any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce or of the mails . . .
>
> (b) to use or employ, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security . . . any manipulative or deceptive device or contrivance in contravention of such rules and regulations as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

Rule 10b-5 of the Securities Exchange Commission (17 C.F.R. § 240-10b-5) states:

> "It shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, by the use of any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of any facility of any national securities exchange,
>
> (1) to employ any device, scheme or artifice to defraud,
>
> (2) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading or,
>
> (3) to engage in any act, practice or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security."

SUPREME COURT, U. S.

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1974

No. 74-1283

C. N. S. ENTERPRISES, INC., THOMAS G. COULES AND CLAYTON NASSOS,

Petitioners,

vs.

G. & G. ENTERPRISES, INC., GISELLE STRAUSBURGER, GLADYS LUCAS, KIMLIS SALES COMPANY, ROBERT W. CASEY AND NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTIN,

Respondents.

RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

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Gunthorp-Warren Printing Company, Chicago • Financial 6-6565

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Respondents G. & G. Enterprises, Inc., Giselle Strausburger, Gladys Lucas, Kimlis Sales Company, Robert W. Casey and National Bank of Austin, defendants-appellees in the court below, pray that the Petition for Writ of Certiorari be denied.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED.

1. Where, to consummate the purchase of a business, a purchaser borrows money from a bank and issues its note therefor, does the issuance of the note to the bank invoke Federal

jurisdiction through the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10(b)-5 to adjudicate claims of misrepresentation by the buyer against the seller?

2. If the foregoing question be answered in the affirmative, may relief in the form of cancellation of the note be given against the bank in the absence of any allegations that the bank participated in or was even aware of the alleged fraud?

STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

The complaint alleged that plaintiffs purchased the business good will, merchandise and fixtures of the coin operated laundry and dry cleaning business of defendants, G. & G. Enterprises, Inc., Giselle Strausburger and Gladys Lucas, known as the Village Well of Justice, paying a portion of the purchase price in cash, assuming an existing chattel mortgage on the fixtures being sold, held by defendant, National Bank of Austin and borrowing additional funds from Austin to pay the balance.

More than nine months after consummation of the transaction and plaintiffs' receipt of the additional borrowing from Austin, plaintiffs filed this action, claiming violations by defendants other than Austin of Sec. 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 USC, Sec. 78j [b]) and Rule 10(b)-5 promulgated thereunder.

The defendants other than Austin moved to dismiss on the grounds that no "security" was involved. Austin, while endorsing this view, sought dismissal on the basis there were simply no allegations of any wrongful conduct by Austin which would support an action even if a "security" was involved.

The District Court dismissed plaintiffs' Complaint on the basis that the facts alleged therein did not involve the purchase or sale of a "security" within the meaning of the Act.

The Seventh Circuit affirmed, holding that the promissory notes given by plaintiffs to the bank were not "securities" within

the meaning of the 1934 act and Federal jurisdiction was therefore lacking.

ARGUMENT.

Petitioners seek to invest a classic state court fraud action involving the purchase of a laundromat from two suburban housewives not only with a basis for federal jurisdiction, but also with such importance as should persuade this court to review the lower courts' denial of such jurisdiction by asserting 1) the case is an appropriate vehicle for deciding an allegedly important issue of securities law left open by this court in *Scherk* v. *Alberto-Culver Co.*, 417 U. S. 506, 41 L.Ed. 2d 270 (1974) and 2) an alleged conflict on the issue between circuits.

Baldly, this case involves the prosaic purchase of a business by Petitioners. They allege that facts were misrepresented in connection with the purchase. The sole basis of Federal jurisdiction asserted is the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10(b)-5 promulgated thereunder, and the statute and rule are invoked simply because the statute, in describing its coverage, uses the phrase "any note". Petitioners do not really make clear to the court that as between buyer and seller there was no note given or taken. On the contrary, as is the case in countless daily business transactions, the buyer went to a bank and borrowed funds to pay the seller. Since the buyers gave the bank a note evidencing their obligation to repay the funds, Petitioners contend that the Securities Act is thereby brought into play and federal jurisdiction properly invoked. Not only does the Court of Appeals' analysis of the situation remove all possible doubt of the correctness of the Court's decision, but the very statement of the proposition contains its own rebuttal.

The Court of Appeals recognized that the primary issue was " . . . whether the plaintiffs are simply borrowers in a commercial transaction who are not protected by the 1934 Act or investors in a securities transaction who are protected" As the guidepost of its search, the Court of Appeals cited this Court's hold-

ing in *S. E. C.* v. *National Securities, Inc.*, 393 U. S. 453, 466 (1969): ". . . in searching for the meaning and scope of the word 'security' in the Act, form should be disregarded for substance and the emphasis should be on economic reality."

The Court then proceeded to analyze the facts in the light of a multitude of decided cases to determine whether Petitioners were investors, or simply borrowers. Recognizing that the fact of a borrowing was not itself conclusive inasmuch as the borrowing could be in the form of a large issue of debentures as opposed to a borrowing of a few dollars from a bank for an automobile, the Court held that each case must be determined upon its facts and that if the totality of the facts indicated that the notes were purchased as an investment the federal securities law would apply, but if the notes simply evidenced a borrowing from a third person of needed funds for a business, the act would not. In view of the most thorough and perceptive analysis made by the Court of Appeals in its decision, it would be an imposition upon this Court's time to gild the lily by attempting to restate the authorities and the considerations evidencing the correctness of the Court of Appeals' decision.

It should be noted, however, that the Court of Appeals' rejection of the concept that the use of a paper called a "note" was determinative of whether a "security" is involved is entirely consistent with this court's very recent decision in *United Housing Foundation, Inc.* v. *Foreman*, ... U. S. ..... (June 16, 1975) that the use of a paper called "stock" is not determinative of whether a "security" is involved.

Not only do the Petitioners thus fail to establish Federal jurisdiction with respect to the Defendants other than the bank, but they do not even suggest a basis for a cause of action, federal or state, against the bank itself. There is no allegation in the Complaint that the bank was aware of any alleged misrepresentation, that the bank induced the transaction, or that the bank knew or even should have known that any representation or conduct out of the ordinary occurred. Thus, this Court is

asked to hold that where a bank loans money and takes back a note, the bank's right to payment depends not upon the Uniform Commercial Code, investing an innocent payee with the rights of a holder in due course and thus the right to recover from the maker even where the notes were executed as a result of fraudulent misrepresentation of fact (UCC 3-302, 305), but upon the Federal Securities Law and Rule 10(b)-5 which, because of the use of the note to evidence the obligation, nullifies the Commercial Code and, incidentally, its antecedents, the Uniform Negotiable Instrument Law and the Law Merchant.

Lastly, it is appropriate to comment on the two previously mentioned factors which Petitioners urge upon this Court as a basis for the issuance of a writ of certiorari.

It is suggested that in *Scherk* v. *Alberto-Culver Co., supra,* this court recognized the importance of the issue presented here and that this case presents a vehicle ripe for formulation of a general rule of law concerning the question left open in that case. Strangely, the "similarity" between the instant case and *Alberto-Culver,* in which the Seventh Circuit held that under the facts a security was involved, was not even adverted to by the Seventh Circuit in its decision in this case because of the wide factual differences.

Painting with the same broad brush, Petitioners suggest that the decision of the Second Circuit in *Movielab, Inc.,* v. *Berkey Photo, Inc.,* 452 F. 2d 662 (2d Cir. 1971), holding that notes issued by one publicly owned company to another publicly owned company for ten million five hundred thousand dollars, in exchange for the assets of the latter, constituted securities, is in such conflict with the holding of the Seventh Circuit that a note given to a bank to finance part of the purchase price of a laundromat is not a security that this Court must exercise its jurisdiction. We respectfully submit that neither proposed basis for the invocation of this court's jurisdiction under Rule 19 is sufficient under the facts of the instant case.

In *United Housing Foundation, Inc.* v. *Foreman, supra,* this court said:

> "In holding that the name given to an instrument is not dispositive, we do not suggest that the name is wholly irrelevant to the decision whether it is a security. There may be occasions when the use of a traditional name such as 'stocks' or 'bonds' will lead a purchaser justifiably to assume that the federal securities laws apply. This would clearly be the case when the underlying transaction embodies some of the significant characteristics typically associated with the named instrument."

In the instant case, there is no suggestion whatever that the transaction underlying the issuance of the note had any of the significant characteristics typically associated with a security which would lead the parties to assume that the Federal Securities Law applied to their dealings.

While many cases may arise presenting "papers" issued under circumstances which would present the "gray areas" anticipated by this Court in *Foreman,* it must be clear that this is not such a case.

CONCLUSION.

For the foregoing reasons and for the reasons apparent of record, respondents respectfully pray that the Petition for Writ of Certiorari be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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